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Security Council

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Letter dated 10 July 2008 from the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to forward the attached resolution (Assembly/AU/Res.1(XI)) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union during its eleventh ordinary session, held in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, on 30 June and 1 July 2008, concerning the situation in Zimbabwe (see annex).

I should also seize this opportunity to inform you, and to underscore the fact that African leaders have fully assumed their responsibility in efforts to address the political crisis in Zimbabwe, as you are aware. Indeed, the adoption of this resolution followed in-depth discussions and consultations by African leaders. We believe the support of the Security Council for its implementation would be crucial, as in other instances. We therefore urge the Council to lend its full support to this process at the present stage of its consideration of the situation in Zimbabwe.

We request you to kindly circulate this letter and the attached resolution as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lila H. **Ratsifandriharnanana**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

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Annex to the letter dated 10 July 2008 from the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Resolution on Zimbabwe

The African Union Assembly, meeting in its eleventh ordinary session held from 30 June to 1 July 2008 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt,

Deeply concerned with the prevailing situation in Zimbabwe,

Deeply concerned by the negative reports of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union and the Pan-African Parliament observers on the Zimbabwean Presidential run-off election held on 27 June 2008,

Deeply concerned about the violence and loss of life that have occurred in Zimbabwe,

Considering the urgent need to prevent further worsening of the situation and in order to avoid the spread of conflict with the consequential negative impact on the country and the subregion,

Further considering the need to create an environment conducive to democracy, as well as the development of the people of Zimbabwe,

Expressing its appreciation to SADC, and its Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation, as well as to the Facilitator of the intra-Zimbabwe dialogue, His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, and His Excellency Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the ongoing work aimed at reconciling the political parties,

Recognizing the complexity of the situation in Zimbabwe,

Noting the willingness of the political leaders of Zimbabwe to enter into negotiations to establish a Government of National Unity,

Noting further that preparatory discussions on this matter have already started, under SADC facilitation,

Hereby decide:

1. *To encourage* President Robert Mugabe and the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) Party Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai to honour their commitments to initiate dialogue with a view to promoting peace, stability, democracy and reconciliation of the Zimbabwean people;

2. *To support* the call for the creation of a Government of National Unity;

3. *To support* the SADC Facilitation, and *recommend* that SADC mediation efforts should be continued in order to assist the people and leadership of Zimbabwe to resolve the problems they are facing. In this regard SADC should establish a mechanism on the ground in order to seize the momentum for a negotiated solution;

4. *To appeal* to States and parties concerned to refrain from any action that may negatively impact on the climate of dialogue;

5. In the spirit of all SADC initiatives, the African Union remains convinced that the people of Zimbabwe will be able to resolve their differences and work together once again as one Nation, provided they receive undivided support from SADC, the African Union and the world at large.